

Knight Out at DMS

By ADAM SWIFT

Jeffrey Knight will not be back as the principal of the Duxbury Middle School next year, according to Supt. Susan Skeiber.

"He is moving on and is interviewing with other systems," said Skeiber. "We wish him the best of luck."



Knight has been at the helm of the middle school for three years and served as the school's assistant principal for a year before that. He earned \$94,090 last year.

Skeiber would neither confirm nor deny that she decided not to renew Knight's contract for next year.

"It's a personnel issue," she said. Knight will be working through the end of the current school year, Skeiber said.

Knight referred a call to discuss the situation to the superintendent's office.

School Committee Chairman George Cipolletti said personnel issues are the domain of the superintendent.

"All of the administrators are on year-to-year contracts," he said.

Knight and Skeiber did not always see eye-to-eye on all issues, Cipolletti said.

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Knight Contract Not Renewed

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"I think that Mrs. Skeiber and Mr. Knight had a couple of things they did not agree on as far as how to lead the school," Cipolletti said. "Obviously, if they were not working on the same page, something had to give."

Cipolletti said Knight has done a great job during his time principal and expressed confidence that he would find a position in another district.

The opening for the middle school principal position is listed on the district Web site.

The ideal candidate for the position would be someone who understands how to best run a middle school and is a dynamic leader, Skeiber said.

"I'd like to see someone who is a good communicator both with the students and teachers and with the parents and the community," she said.

Skeiber said the new prin-



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cipal should also have a good grasp on curriculum development and be willing to work to make sure the middle school is a part of the larger school system.

Cipolletti also said the new principal should be able to grasp the complexities of the middle school environment.

"We also need someone who can keep the kids on an

even keel," he said. "Behavior can be very challenging at this level."

Sandy White, a parent who has vocally challenged the administration over special education issues, said Knight should stay at the helm of the middle school.

"My experiences with Jeff Knight have shown that he is exactly the man that fits all of the advertised specifications for his replacement - Jeff Knight is the man for this job," she said. "We should do whatever needs to be done to keep devoted, experienced, fair and respected members on our team because people like Jeff Knight are hard to find."

"Considering the recent mass exodus of administrative staff and problems that our school district faces, we should consider ourselves lucky that role models and leaders like Jeff Knight are even willing to stay," White said.

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